

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 EB-07 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 (ISO) W

----- 103753

R 061341Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9876

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1602

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, EGEN, APER

SUBJ: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REF: STATE 029255

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

1. AS ALREADY REPORTED CAIRO 0013, POLITICAL COUNSELOR ARTHUR LOWRIE DESIGNED AT MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER. HE IS FSO-3 AND ONE OF SENIOR OFFICERS OF THIS POST.

2. WE HAVE LONG BEEN ENGAGED IN ACTIVE EFFORT TO DEVELOP GREATER GOE UNDERSTANDING OF USG POSITIONS IN UN AND OTHER MULTILATERAL FORUMS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. AS DEPT AWARE, WE HAVE WON SOME AND LOST SOME. WHILE GOE HAS TRIED TO BE HELPFUL, IT HAS ALSO ON OCCASION MADE CLEAR THAT IS POLITICAL POSITION IN THE ARAB, AFRICAN, AND NON-ALIGNED WORLDS REQUIRES TAKING POSITIONS WHICH ARE NOT CONSONANT WITH OURS. THIS SITUATION WILL DOUBTLESS CONTINUE. FOLLOWING SINAI II, GOE IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO CHARGES THAT IT HAS DESERTED ARAB CAUSE AND BECOME A "CHOSEN INSTRUMENT" OF U.S. IT, THEREFORE, SOME-TIME GOES OUT OF ITS WAY TO DEMONSTRATE FALSITY OF THESE CHARGES. EGYPTIANS EXPLAIN THIS AWAY AS "AUCTIONEERING" ON THEIR PART TO COUNTER
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AUCTIONEERING ON THE PART OF THEIR ARAB CRITICS.

WE MUST EXPECT THIS TO CONTINUE.

3. WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT OUR JUDGMENTS ON EGYPT'S ACTIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES WILL NOT BE MADE IN SIMPLISTIC TERMS. FACT REMAINS THAT, WHATEVER GOE MAY DO IN UN AND OTHER MULTILATERAL FORUMS, WE STILL NEED ITS SUPPORT IF THE ALL IMPORTANT ME PEACE PROCESS IS TO BE MAINTAINED. ATTEMPTS TO PENALIZE GOE FOR UN VOTES UNPOPULAR TO US; E.G., SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM, BY CUTTING AID OR IN OTHER WAYS IS CERTAIN TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVES IN THIS COUNTRY AND IN ME AREA. AT SAME TIME, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT IS EGYPT'S OVERRIDING FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITY AND DEMANDS ALMOST FULL ATTENTION OF TOP POLICY MAKERS.

4. WE MUST ALSO INVITE ATTENTION TO ANOTHER ASPECT OF THIS PROBLEM ON WHICH, DUE TO NO FAULT OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH, WE LOOK BAD AND MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR COUNTRY SUCH AS EGYPT, WHICH HAS TRIED TO HELP. RECENT EXAMPLE IS OAU CONFERENCE ANGOLA. AT OUR STRONG URGING, GOE ADOPTED A POSITION IN OAU REFUSING ACCEPT MPLA AND URGING ESTABLISHMENT OF OAU MECHANISM TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS AMONG THREE CONTENDING PARTIES. EGYPTIAN REPS WHO ATTENDED OAU MEETING, INCLUDING VP MOBAREK, HAVE TOLD US IRATE REACTION OF TANZANIAN, NIGERIAN, AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO THIS EGYPTIAN POSITION. NEVERTHELESS, GOE REMAINED STEADFAST IN BELIEF THAT USG ASSISTANCE TO UNITA AND FLNA FORCES WOULD CONTINUE AND SUPPORT THE POLITICAL OBJECTIVE WHICH WE ENCOURAGED EGYPTIANS TO TRY TO ACHIEVE IN OAU FORUM.

5. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IN STOPPING USG SUPPORT FOR ANGOLA HAS CREATED A SENSE OF LETDOWN AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOE, WHICH NOW FINDS ITSELF IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION. MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD TOLD US IN PAST TWO DAYS THAT, WITH AMERICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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RECOGNITION OF MPLA, 25 OAU MEMBERS (A MAJORITY) HAVE NOW ACCEPTED LEGITIMACY OF MPLA. AS RESULT, AND WITH THE CONGRESSIONALLY IMPOSED STOPPAGE OF US SUPPORT, GOE FINDS ITSELF IN AN AWKWARD POSITION OF HAVING TO LOOK FOR A FACE-SAVING WAY OUT. WHILE GOE UNDERSTAND CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS DOES NOT ALTER ITS ANNOYANCE AT HAVING BEEN PLACED IN POLITICALLY EMBARRASSING POSITION AS A

RESULT OF WHAT THEY REGARD AS USG DEFAULT.
IF WE ARE TO ASK GOE TO BE STEADFAST IN MULTILATERAL
FORUMS ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO US, WE MUST BE
EQUALLY SO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO01602
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760047-0831
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760276/aaaacogy.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 29255
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, APER, XF, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006